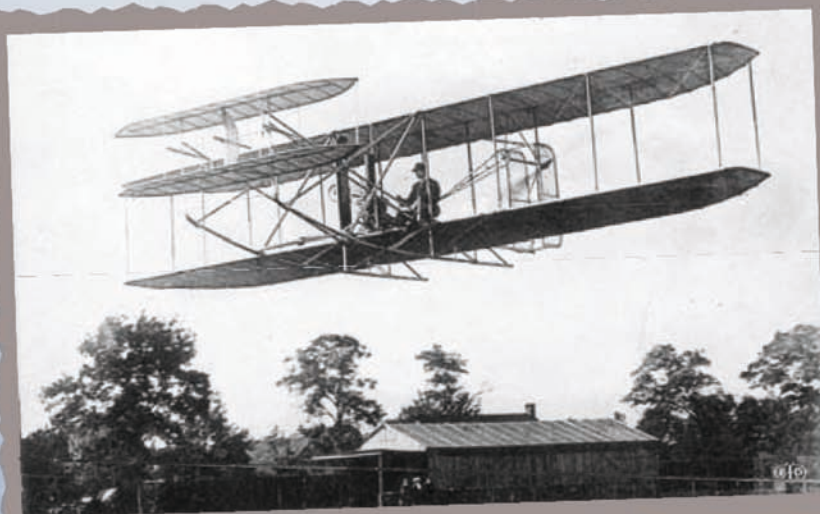


Le Mans - Sarthe Wright, 1908-2008

**Centenary of the 1st flight open to
public view and the 1st European
flight of the Wright brothers**



1908 - 2008

La Sarthe, Terre de pionniers

>> June 8th, 2008 Celebration at "Camp d'Auvours" (Military base) Centenary of the meeting between Wright - Bollée.

June 8th, 1908 Wilbur Wright arrives for the first time in the Sarthe region. He meets Léon Bollée and visits the two sites 'L'hippodrome des Hunaudières' (Hunaudière racecourse) and the camp d'artillerie d'Auvours (Auvours military camp). for his test flights.

100 years later: this day will be the occasion for a celebration with participants dressed in period costume, antique cars, ballon launch and music.



>> June 9th: Conference "L'espace: une aventure hors du commun" (Space: an extraordinary adventure), Palais de Congrès et de la culture.

A captivating conference at 5m suitable for audiences over 12 with the astronauts from the European spatial agency (ESA) Jean-François Clervoy et Michel Tognini and the NASA astronaut Mark Brown.

>> June 13th, 14th, 15th : Le Mans 24 hours car race (24h du Mans)

2008 promises to be spectacular for the 24 hours race making a parallel between automobiles, advances in technology, and space flight technology.

June 13th at 6pm: The astronauts will be participating in the "Parade des Pilotes" (Race car driver parade) in the centre of town.

June 14th at 12 noon: The Wright Flyer from the Le Mans Sarthe Aéro Retro Club will follow Léon Bollée's car around the track in front of the pits. The race begins at 3pm with the 3 astronauts Jean-Loup Chrétien, Mark Brown, and Vladimir Titov and a direct radio link to the international space station.

>> July 9th -13th: Exhibition of the pioneer flight engines, Aerodrome.

This exhibition will be the occasion to bring together rare airplanes in flight condition representative of the great pioneers of aviation: the Wright Flyer 1908, the Wright B 1911, the Blériot X 1 1909 and the Santos-Dumont Demoiselle 1909.

The aficionados of antique cars will not be overlooked: cars from that era will also be present.



>> July 11th-13th: Le Mans Classic

A famous astronaut will give the departure signal for the car race. Constant references to the world of aeronautics will be made throughout the day during the course of the race.

>> July 11th-14th: Pioneer's cup "Sur les traces de Léon Bollée et de Wilbur Wright" (Following the footsteps of Léon Bollée and Wilbur Wright)

60 vehicles from the years 1895 to 1914 will follow the same itinerary that Wilbur Wright and Léon Bollée took in the Sarthe region in 1908. In addition to the visits to the "Hunaudières racecourse and the Auvours military base, to complete this event, there will also be a visit to the military school "Prytanée" in la Flèche and a visit to the town Créans where the sponsor of the Wright brothers lived.



>> July 11th - August 31st: Exhibition "Pioneers of Aviation", Departmental archives from the Sarthe region, Epau Abbey

A collection of never before displayed objects putting into perspective the pioneers of aviation and the celebration of man's flight conquest will be exposed in an area covering 1200 m2.

- . The exact replica of the 1908 Wright Flyer III;
- . The bronze bust of Charles E. Taylor, original work by the American artist V. Hess;
- . Piece of the wing and the propeller of the original 1903 Wright Flyer I taken to the moon on July 20th and 21st, 1969 and brought back by Neil Armstrong;
- . Original 1909 Anzani type Blériot XI;
- . Selected trophies and medals won by the Wright brothers in France ;
- . Numerous archives and documentation concerning the pioneers of aviation (photographs, films, letters ...) never before view by the public.

>> August 8th: Official commemorative ceremony, Hunaudières racecourse and the Aerodrome.

Centenary of the 1st Wright brother's flight

Inauguration of the contemporary monument "Spirit of the Pioneers" erected in the middle within the Hunaudières racecourse. Exceptional plane will honour the skies of the Sarthe region. Activities pertaining to the 1908 William Wright Flyer III replica will be organised.

>> Also of interest:

May 1st: Festival Artec; theme "Mission to Mars", with a conference at the company Souriau.

May 6-31st: Exhibition "Le plus léger que l'air" (Lighter than air) displayed by the schools ESBAM and ISMANS.

May 15th: Festival de l'Epau. A concert which Wilbur Wright and Léon Bollée could have attended.

May 23rd to June 30th: Exhibition "Des avions à l'Espace" (From planes to Space), Palais des Congrès et de la Culture du Mans. Photographs by JP. Haigueré, drawings by G. Sornas, paintings by F. Bruère and D. Hutton.

May 31st to July 14th: Exhibition "Automobile et Aéroclubs de la Sarthe", Automobile Museum - numerous documentation of the ACO Automobile Club de l'Ouest (West Automobile Club - Founders and organisers of the Le Mans 24 hour car race).

The month of June: Original Wright Flyer engine, Monod Exhibition Hall, Le Mans.

June 7th: Workshop at the Auvours military base in Champagné.

June 21st: Celebration in Champagné at the Auvours military base.

July-August: "Le Juste avant et le juste après" exhibition, and the 1909 air show of Reims Bétheny.

October 10th to 12th: La 25e Heure du livre, Le Mans. Meetings and book signings with authors of aviation history books and aeronautics.

November 15th -16th: Play in French called "Le Vol de Kitty Hawk" (Kitty Hawk's flight) performed by Depuis Depuis.

November 21st to March 1st, 2009: Exhibition "Avion, aviateur, aviation" (Planes, aviators, aviation), Tessé Museum - Exhibition of paintings and fine art from the 1908 to 2008 period.

Further information visit the website: www.wright2008.com

(Programme is subject to change)